

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05054 180512Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 HA-05
AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /116 W
-----037454 182019Z /40

R 171800Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
O RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1400
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5054

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SO ET
SUBJECT:SOMALI CONCERNS FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL

1.ON MARCH 17 MFA OFFICIAL DESCRIBED TO US MEETING SEVERAL
DAYS AGO BETWEEN SOMALI VICE-PRESIDENT KULMIE AND ITALIAN
AMBASSADOR IN MAGADISCIO. ACCORIDNG TO MFA, AMBASSDOR
STATED GOI SATISFACTION WITH SOMALI ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL,
SUPPORT FOR DIPLOMATIC SETTLEMENT,AND OFFER OF HELP FOR
REFUGEES. KULMIE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ITALIAN POSI-
BUT SAID THAT SOMALIA HAD EXPECTED MORE FROM WESTERN
COUNTRIES. HE ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN UNDER
IMPRESSION THAT THERE HAD BEEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN US ON
THE ONE HAND AND SOVIETS AND ETHIOPIANS ON THE OTHER
THAT PRESSURES ON SOMALIA WOULD DECREASE ONCE WITHDRAWAL
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WAS COMPLETED. INSTEAD, SOMALIS FOUND ETHIOPIAN POSITION
TOWARD THEM STIFFENING WITH EVERY PASSING DAY. SOMALIS
NOW WANT TWO THINGS FROM WEST: STRONG REPRESENTATIONS
TO SOVIETS AND EHTIOPIANS TO MAKE THEM RELAX PRESSURE ON
SOMALIA AND HELP IN DEALING WITH REFUGEE PROBLEMS.

2. MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT ITALIANS BELIEVE THAT INFLUX

OF REFUGEES, ESPECIALLY TO NORTHER SOMALIA WHERE MORE
CONSERVATIVE, NATIONALISTIC SOMALIS LIVE, POSES SERIOUS
THREAT TO SIAD BARRE REGIME. SOMALI GOVERNMENT IS THERE-
FORE PUBLICLY PLAYING DOWN PLIGHT OF REFUGEES SO AS NOT
TO STIR UP ANTI-SIAD BARRE SENTIMENT FROM IRREDENTIST
ELEMENTS ON RIGHT. GSDR HOPES THAT REFUGEES WILL EVENTUALLY
RETURN TO OGADEN. FOR THIS REASON, SOMALIS ARE NOW LESS
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IDEA OF OBSERVER GROUPS WHO MIGHT TESTIFY
TO REPRISALS IN OGADEN AND THEREFORE DISCOURAGE RETURN OF
REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES. GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMALI CONCERNS FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL
TAGS: PFOR, SO, ET, US
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